

HOUSE RESOLUTION 133

By Phillips

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mimi Pettersen Hughes on swimming the Bering Strait.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have realized the American dream through sacrifice, resolve, commitment and a fierce determination to overcome obstacles; and

WHEREAS, Mimi Pettersen Hughes of Taft, Tennessee, who teaches at Motlow Fayetteville Center, is one such richly deserving citizen; and

WHEREAS, Mimi Pettersen Hughes recently swam the 2.5 miles from the tip of Alaska to the tip of Siberia across the Bering Strait turning this chilling challenge into a warm story of human will and inspiration; and

WHEREAS, she made this historic journey from Alaska's Little Diomed Island to Russia's Big Diomed Island in a mere one hour and fifteen minutes despite a strong current, high waves and icy waters that numbed her extremities; and

WHEREAS, her time is indeed impressive, but Mimi Pettersen Hughes' feat is daunting at any speed as it speaks volumes about the adaptability of human ability and the perseverance of the human spirit; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hughes' spiritual strength aided her greatly during her taxing swim across the Bering Strait; and

WHEREAS, her sterling achievement was part diplomacy, part athletic prowess and many parts grit and determination; and

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WHEREAS, part of Ms. Hughes' mission in swimming the Bering Strait was to foster better relations between the U.S. and the Russian people, whom she feels are often forgotten now that the Cold War is over; this is truly an unselfish and commendable goal; and

WHEREAS, she is indeed fortunate to have the love and support of her wonderful family throughout all her endeavors, including this most recent herculean feat; this exceptional lady's family includes her husband, A. Forrest Hughes and their four fine children, Breand Hughes, Tesla Hughes, Kelsey Hughes and A. Forrest Hughes, II; and

WHEREAS, although she doesn't fit the stereotype of an athlete, Mimi Pettersen Hughes has demonstrated in a dramatic fashion that true dedication can lead a person to realize dreams of any kind, no matter how difficult the task involved may be; and

WHEREAS, Mimi Pettersen Hughes truly exemplifies the great Volunteer spirit of Tennessee, and this General Assembly most heartily concurs with her students' assessment of her as "the world's greatest teacher, friend and swimmer"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor Mimi Pettersen Hughes upon her astounding accomplishment of swimming the Bering Strait and commend her meritorious efforts to improve American-Russian relations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we salute Ms. Hughes for her stalwart dedication, drive and perseverance in realizing the American dream, as well as a unique athletic accomplishment. Her fellow Tennesseans would do well to emulate her indomitable spirit and will, as she is truly an inspiration to us all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.